



# Quartermaster

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# THE SCIENCE OF THE COMBAT LOGISTICS PATROL

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Today's multifunctional warrior has evolved into one of the premier warriors on the non-linear and non-conventional battlefield. Logisticians are faced with unprecedented and uncharted tactics, techniques, and procedures (TTPs) on the battlefields of Iraq and Afghanistan. Effective combat logistic patrols (CLPs) are not just a concept but a way of life for combat service support units. No longer can logistical units rely on non-organic force protection or other emergency response assets while "outside the wire" on austere main supply routes (MSRs). Multifunctional units, specifically Transportation units, must be able to successfully master actions on the objective, force protection, and critical emergency response skills. The science of CLP operations is a way of life for daily operations and consistent self improvement. The aforementioned concept is the standard to fix, fuel, arm, move, and sustain the force.

The 756th Transportation Company (POL) stationed at Camp Taji, Iraq, in support of *Operation Iraqi Freedom 05-06* successfully delivered 11 million gallons of Class III (Bulk) and operated over 200,000 miles throughout the Multi-National Division-Baghdad sector. However, the most important skills developed in theater were the unit's ability to organically transform to react to Anti-Iraqi Forces (AIF). Specifically, this consists of the additional equipment and skills that augment the unit's fleet of M1088 tractors and M967/M969 5,000-gallon fuel tankers. Additional assets included gun trucks, fire suppression systems (FSS), maintenance recovery/wreckers, and various counter remote controlled improvised explosive devices (IED) counter electronic warfare (CREW) systems. To augment the newly acquired equipment, Motor Transport Operators (88M), became proficient on vehicle operations, Single Channel Ground and Airborne Radio System

(SINCGARS), warlocks, mobile tracking systems (MTS), Blue Force Tracker, vehicle recovery operations, combat lifesaver (CLS), numerous weapons systems (M2, 240B, M16/M4), and commodity operations. A brief synopsis based on the 756th Transportation Company *Operation Iraqi Freedom* rotation is as follows:

**Gun Trucks:** The unit successfully configured M1088 tractors into gun truck platforms. A gunner's protection kit boxed the gunner on three sides with armor protection. A dual-mounted gun shield offered protection to the front with the capability of mounting two weapons systems (M249 and M2). Sirens, loud speakers, Iraqi warning signs, and one-million watt powered spot lights were used to warn incoming traffic of the danger of approaching the CLP. All gun trucks were equipped with CREW systems and AN/VRC-92 Dual Long Range SINCGARS. Gun truck personnel were trained and drilled on escalation of force (EOF), rules of engagement, and mitigating unnecessary collateral damage.

**Communication:** The unit gradually increased the ability to communicate within the CLP from 15 percent to 100 percent. Initially, only the mission commander and assistant mission commander could communicate. Due to the non-linear AIF tactics, every asset within the CLP must be able to maintain situational awareness and communication. The unit progressed to the point where all vehicles possessed at least an AN/VRC-90 Single Long Range SINCGARS. Command and control vehicles, recovery assets, and gun trucks were outfitted with an AN/VRC-92. Motor transporters became proficient in ten-level preventive maintenance checks and services and primarily operated in single channel cipher text.

**Navigation:** The unit possessed two types of navigational systems: MTS and Force XXI Battle

Command Brigade and Below-Blue Force Tracker (FBCB2-BFT). Subsequently the company tactical operations center had a matching base system. The MTS proved to be invaluable as both a communication and navigational tool. Critical messaging (to include group notifications, route updates, and contacting battle space owners) provided the CLP an invaluable tool. Motor transporters became proficient on both the MTS and FBCB2-BFT through daily operations and extensive training.

**Weapon Systems:** 88M Motor Transport Operators who were selected to become gunners had to be qualified on multiple weapon systems. This included their individual weapon (M4/M16), the M249 Squad Automatic Weapon, the M240B 7.62 machine gun, and M2 .50 caliber machine gun. Weapon system skills were sustained by monthly firing ranges and realistic “live fire” lanes. The turret gunners’ ability to successfully perform EOF drills, maneuvering from the lowest caliber weapon gradually up to more lethal systems, became the difference between life and death on the MSRs. Additionally, their ability to successfully mitigate loss of civilian personnel and property coincides with the ultimate goal of coalition forces: mitigation of unnecessary loss of life and personal property.

**Fire Suppression System:** CLPs encounter unique hostilities on the MSR. This includes IEDs and possible vehicular accidents. The FSS can provide 500 gallons of mobile fire suppression foam, pushing back flames from the cab in order for dedicated personnel to extract casualties and equipment. A fabricated platform was developed in order to mount the FSS directly on an M1088 Bobtail. The crew was trained extensively on both fire suppression operations and first responder medical training.

**Recovery/Wrecker Operations:** Preparing for the unexpected breakdown is paramount to the success of the CLP. Being stationary on the MSR increases the risk for AIF engagement and ties up critical supply routes. Maintenance and recovery personnel had 15 minutes to fix the

mechanical failure or tow the system. All CLPs were equipped with a wrecker vehicle, preferably the M984 heavy expanded mobility tactical truck wrecker, and an additional Bobtail for trailer recovery.

**CREW Systems:** The danger of remote controlled IEDs was mitigated by various CREW systems. The CREW jammed the receiver of the IED to prevent the signal of the trigger from reaching its target. CREW systems were constantly being developed and upgraded to meet the latest threats. Additional information on the CREW is classified secret due to its sensitive nature.

**Combat Lifesavers:** Qualified first responders are the mitigating factor for Soldier survivability. The advancement of medical transportation and trauma care can only work if the wounded Soldier is stabilized within the first five to ten minutes. Every Soldier within the formation received CLS training and the specific requirement was one CLS qualified individual with a bag in every vehicle. Additionally, gun truck personnel underwent an enhanced first responder class developed by the 101st Airborne Division. The first responder training focused on the most common injuries in theater and critical trauma skills.

The aforementioned synopsis offers a brief caption of the true abilities that our unit adapted through the assistance of the 189th Corps Support Battalion (Airborne) and the 4th Sustainment Brigade. The unit committed itself to meticulous attention to detail and constant improvement, subsequently creating a CLP (self knowledge) mentality. Specific and detailed information is classified in order to ensure the ever allusive and formidable AIF do not become familiar with coalition formations and TTPs. The one asset that cannot be overemphasized is the multi-talented Soldiers within the formation of today’s Army. The Generation X and Millennials represent the diverse talents that each and every Soldier brought to the fight. The 189th Corps Support Battalion Commander utilized any means necessary to

resource our dynamic formation and developed a very efficient CLP standard operating procedure. The 4th Sustainment Brigade Commander developed the three Cs: confidence in yourself, confidence in your equipment, and confidence in your leaders. The three Cs were always utilized as the foundation of our unit's operation. The three Cs were the focal point of our constant evolution of equipment, leaders, and most importantly, individuals. Today's logistical Soldier has evolved into today's premier warfighter.

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